

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-6 (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) In a ~~A~~ method of braking a top loading laundry washing machine spin tub wherein said spin tub is driven by an electronically commutated DC motor, wherein the commutation devices are connected to a DC power supply and have free-wheeling diodes connected in parallel therewith, and wherein said washing machine includes other components having inductive windings, the improvement comprising the steps of ~~characterised in that:~~

terminating commutation of power to the motor windings ~~is terminated~~,

monitoring the voltage of the DC power supply ~~is monitored~~,

and when the DC power supply voltage exceeds a pre-determined value due to motor regenerative current flowing through said free-wheeling diodes, temporarily connecting the inductive winding of an unused component in said machine ~~is connected~~ across said DC power supply until the DC power supply voltage reduces below said pre-determined value.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 7 wherein said unused component is a water pump powered by a single phase induction motor, the winding of which is electronically commutated from said DC power supply by bridge connected switching devices, said switching devices are controlled by a microprocessor, the DC power supply voltage is monitored by said microprocessor and said microprocessor causes said switching devices to connect the winding of said pump motor across said DC power supply.

Claims 9-14 (Cancelled)

15. (New) In a top loading laundry washing machine having a spin tub wherein said spin tub is driven by a DC motor commutated by electronic switching devices, wherein said electronic devices are connected to a DC power supply and have free-wheeling diodes connected in parallel therewith, and wherein said washing machine includes other components having inductive windings, the improvement comprising:

a controller for terminating commutation of power to the motor windings,
a voltage threshold detector for monitoring the voltage of the DC power supply,
switching means for connecting the inductive winding of an unused component in said machine across said DC power supply when said voltage threshold detector detects said DC power supply voltage has exceeded a predetermined value and for subsequently disconnecting the inductive winding of said unused component from said DC power supply when said threshold detector detects said DC power supply voltage has reduced below said predetermined value.

16. (New) A washing machine according to claim 15 wherein said unused component is a water pump powered by a single phase induction motor, the winding of which is electronically commutated from said DC power supply by bridge connected switching means, said controller is a microprocessor which controls said switching means, said microprocessor monitors the DC power supply voltage and said microprocessor causes said switching means to temporarily connect the winding of said pump motor across said DC power supply.